

We claim:

1. A voice recognition system comprising:
a plurality of modules for receiving voice inputs from a user and performing services for the user response to the voice inputs; and
a prompt selection module for selecting a prompt for presentation to a user, the prompt selection module being operative to identify an experience level of a user and select a prompt appropriate to the user's experience level.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein selection of a prompt is further based on the module and function being used.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein each module incorporates a prompt selection module to select prompts for that module.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the prompt selection for each module identifies the function for which prompting is needed and selects from among prompts associated with that function.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the user information includes information indicating the user's proficiency in using the system.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein the information indicating the user's proficiency includes information indicating the user's proficiency with each function that is available to the user.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the information indicating a user's proficiency with each function includes a function usage tally for each function, the function usage tally for a function indicating a number of times the user has successfully employed the function.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the prompt selection being used employs the function usage tally for a function to determine a user experience category for the user with respect to the function.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the prompt selection being used determines the user experience category by selecting an experience category associated with a range of function usage tally values within which the user's function usage tally for the function falls.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the prompt selection selects a prompt associated with the user experience category.

11. A method of prompt selection, comprising the steps of:
identifying a module and function being employed when a need for user prompting arises;
identifying a user experience level for the function; and
selecting a prompt appropriate for the user experience level for the function.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of identifying the user experience level is followed by a step of identifying the user as belonging to a particular experience category and wherein the step of selecting a prompt includes selecting a prompt associated with the experience category to which the user belongs.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein identifying the user experience category for a function includes examining user information for the function, the user experience information for the function includes a function usage tally indicating a number of times the function has been successfully invoked by the user.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein identifying the user experience category for a function includes assigning the user to an experience category associated with a range of function usage tally values within which the user's function usage tally for the function falls.

15. The method of claim 14, further including a step of updating the user information for each function whenever the user successfully invokes the function.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of updating the user information includes updating the user's function usage tally for a function upon each successful use of that function.